

# *The Blurb*

*A Publication of*

THE PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.  
c/o 641 KISMET ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19115-1114

**—NOTICE—  
General Meetings  
now held on 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Wednesday**

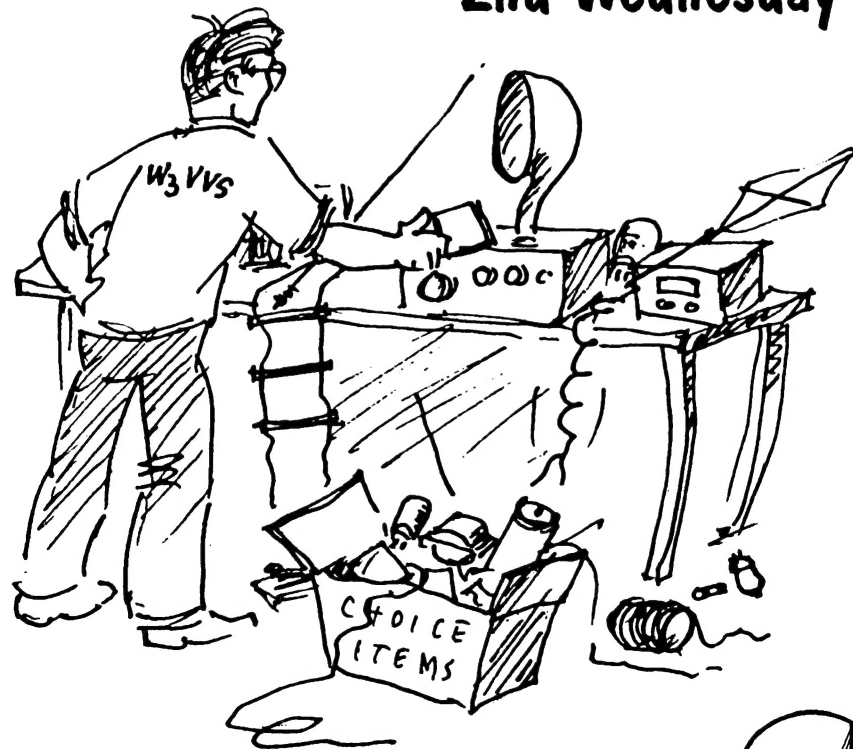
**FIRST CLASS MAIL**



# *The Blurb*

February 1997

**ANTIQUE RADIOS  
AND STUFF!  
2nd Wednesday**



*Public Service Since 1949*



## VOLUME 47

## NUMBER 2

is published monthly by, and for, the members of **The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, INC.** whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. Copying and quoting is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs; requests should be sent to the Editor. Subscriptions are available to nonmembers for \$10 addressed to the Treasurer. The club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second non-holiday Wednesday of every month at **The Franklin Institute Science Museum**, Benjamin Franklin Parkway at 20th Street, Philadelphia. Enter from Winter Street or the parking garage on 21st street. **ALL VISITORS ARE WELCOME!**

Amateur Radio License Examinations are held on the first non-holiday Thursday of every month at The Franklin Institute Science Museum—doors close at 6:30 p.m. **SHARP!**

## CLUB INFORMATION

**Mailing address:** P.O. Box 88, Abington, PA 19001

**Internet Web site:** <http://www.comcat.com/pmrc>

**E-mail:** [pmrc@comcat.com](mailto:pmrc@comcat.com)

**2-meter repeater:** 147.03 MHz (Main site Roxborough receiver requires no PL, but outputs 91.5 Hz.)

**Additional off-site receivers require the following subaudible tones:**

**Southampton** 131.8 Hz—**Center City** 103.5 Hz—**Lansdale** 114.8 Hz—**Broomall** 85.4 Hz

**70cm repeater:** 444.80 MHz (186.2 Hz PL)

**Simplex:** 147.51 MHz

**24-hour club information at W3AA:** 215-448-1139

## STATIONS

**W3QV** - 147.03 MHz repeater - 8200 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee W3BBB

**W3EM** - Field Day and special events station - Trustee W3VVS

**W3AA** - (Formerly W3TKQ) The Franklin Institute Science Museum, Philadelphia, PA - Trustee WU3I

The club sponsors this world-class demonstration station, and welcomes all licensed amateurs to operate it.

**W3AA** packet BBS frequency: 144.99 MHz: [w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:w3aa@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**W3AA** e-mail: [w3aa@fi.edu](mailto:w3aa@fi.edu)

## OFFICERS

**PRESIDENT:** AA3CH, Russ Stafford, RD-1 Box 426, New Castle, DE 19720 610-497-4590

[russ@hdj.com](mailto:russ@hdj.com)—[aa3ch@aa3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam](mailto:aa3ch@aa3ch.#sepa.pa.usa.noam)

**VICE PRESIDENT:** W3GQD, Bill Chedeville, 1365 Mark Drive, West Chester, PA 19380 610-431-3498

[billch1@juno.com](mailto:billch1@juno.com)

**SECRETARY:** N3PVO, Carol Sebzda, 761 North Hills Avenue, Ardsley, PA 19038 215-884-5518

[csebzda@juno.com](mailto:csebzda@juno.com)

**TREASURER:** K2BN, Mike Tannenbaum, 545 Cardinal Drive, Dresher, PA 19025 215-542-5991

[k2bn@agtannenbaum.com](mailto:k2bn@agtannenbaum.com)

## DIRECTORS

W3BBB (98); WU3I (98); W3RM (98); AA3EP (97); K3GNM (97); K3KUD (97); KB3IV (A)

## COMMITTEES

Archives: W3IIN  
Audit: KE3OP  
Awards: AA3EP  
**Blurb** Folding: WB3KOH&J  
Budget: K3KUD  
Directory: WB3KOJ  
DX: NU3Y  
Education: AA3CH  
Emerg. Coord.: N3XKE  
Field Day: N3IEI/W3RM  
Membership: W3LEN  
Net Control: KB3IV  
Program: W3GQD  
Public Service: AA3EP  
Publicity: N3IEI  
Refreshments: N3FVI  
Repeater: W3BBB  
Special Events: N3WCO  
Sunshine: WU3I  
TVI: W3VVS  
VE Program: ND3Q  
W3AA: KB3IV  
Welcome: N3PDO  
Youth: WN3PDB

## Blurb STAFF

Editor: W3IIM, Jack Haring  
2113 Edgehill Drive, Furlong, PA 18925  
215-794-7623  
[w3iim@chmc.com](mailto:w3iim@chmc.com)

Artist: N3QIE (470th issue)  
Labels: WB3KOJ

**DEADLINE:** To be assured of publication in the current month, all copy MUST be in the hands of the Editor at the General Meeting!

## NET SCHEDULE

SUNDAY	09:30	147.030	MHz FM	"SUNDAY MORNING 2 METER NET"
	10:00	28.993	MHz SSB	"10-ON-10 NET"
	10:20	3.993	MHz SSB	75 METER NET
TUESDAY	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	CW PRACTICE NET
LAST WED	20:00	147.030	MHz FM	W3AA OPERATORS' NET

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

01 Charlotte Feierman (XYL K3EUI)

03 Barry Feierman - K3EUI

04 Eunice Bohlander (XYL W3VVS)

Rich Munyan - WA2SIT

05 Mike Concordia - WB3KAC

10 Sharon Masarsky - N3GLU

11 Jerry Russell - K3JR

14 Kay Russell (XYL K3JR)

16 Marjorie Mendelson - N3SPZ

17 Sam Smith - K3GBA

18 Bill Mannino - WA3NSP

Mim Roeshman (XYL W3LKI)

23 Gene DiNardi - N3XKE\*

Louise Newell (XYL W3UK)

24 Bill Biermann - NZ3Z

Jamie Ersbak - W3NM\*

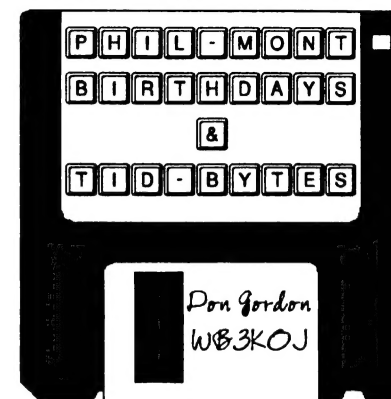
Barbara Ann Hagerty (XYL AA3BB)

Larry Pollack - N3VLC\*

26 Diane Frombach (XYL KA3LCF\*)

28 Roger Cox - K3TYB

\*Indicates New Member 1996-97



## NEW CALLS

N3GMH ➡ N3PP

N3DAM ➡ K2MLJ

## HELP PHIL-MONT

Are you planning to join ARRL or renew your current membership? Help P.M.R.C. by joining or renewing through the club... Mike Tannenbaum - K2BN for details.

## DUES &amp; DIRECTORY UPDATE

Dues are due...for those who have not paid, this is your next to last *Blurb* and your last chance to update your directory information. K2BN awaits your money!

Membership statistics will resume in the April issue.

**"DON'T TAILGATE... WAIT"**—for the courtesy ☺!



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

CALL: **KB2RTZ**  
 NAME: **Steven Bromhead**  
 HANDLE: **Steve**  
 CLASS: **Technician Plus**  
 ADDRESS: **P.O. Box 168  
 Cedarbrook, NJ  
 08018**  
 OCCUPATION: **Self Employed**  
 HOME PHONE: **609-228-8988**  
 BUSINESS PHONE: **609-228-8988**  
 E-MAIL: **rtz@juno.com**  
 PACKET:  
 kb2rtz@w3ps.#snj.nj.usa.noam  
 COMMITTEES: **Field Day; Spec Events; Net  
 Ctr; Youth**

CALL: **KB2SVG**  
 NAME: **Edmond Holohan**  
 HANDLE:  
 CLASS: **Technician Plus**  
 ADDRESS: **334 Ohio Avenue  
 Williamstown, NJ  
 08094-9024**  
 OCCUPATION: **Student**  
 HOME PHONE: **609-262-7954**  
 BUSINESS PHONE:  
 E-MAIL: **lipper-1@juno.com**  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES: **Field Day; Special Events;  
 Youth**

CALL: **N3XLP**  
 NAME: **Michael Marter**  
 HANDLE:  
 CLASS: **Technician**  
 ADDRESS: **6727 Eastwood Street  
 Philadelphia, PA  
 19149**  
 OCCUPATION: **Computer Repair**  
 HOME PHONE:  
 BUSINESS PHONE:  
 E-MAIL: **fetski6727@aol.com**  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES: **Special Events**

CALL: **N3XTN**  
 NAME: **Steven Rudnitsky**  
 HANDLE: **Steve**  
 CLASS: **Technician**  
 ADDRESS: **1504 Third Street  
 Trevoze, PA  
 19053**  
 OCCUPATION: **Silver Reclamation**  
 HOME PHONE: **215-953-9447**  
 BUSINESS PHONE: **215-369-9998**  
 E-MAIL:  
 PACKET:  
 COMMITTEES:

Gettysburg office were being told that processing of vanity call sign applications would not resume until early March because of "unspecified computer-related problems." Gettysburg now seems to be pulling back from that date, and a spokesperson said this week that the FCC hoped to resume vanity processing by February 1. Before processing the backlog of vanity call sign applications, personnel in Gettysburg first plan to

deal with those applications that required special handling—the so-called "WIPS" (work in process) stack—which is backlogged from early November. A spokesman said Wednesday that the FCC will resume work on the WIPS stack "in about a week." Also, contrary to what several callers were told, the FCC did not issue a public notice about the vanity call sign program this week. ☺



## The PREZ SEZ

Russ Stafford, AA3CH

**H**ello Phil-Monsters. We certainly kicked off the New Year with a big bang! Our first meeting was a great success with approximately 75 plus folks there! The auction went very well, and brought in an extra \$300 to the club. Everyone I talked to had a good time.

In keeping with meetings that will be fun, this coming meeting looks like it will be a whole lot of fun as The Franklin Institute comes alive with antique radios with our program host Paul (W3VVS). Come on down and see and hear radios from yesteryear. Bring a friend. If you would like, or need, a ride down to the meeting, try checking into our Sunday morning net at 09:30 AM on 147.03, and work out a ride. Also, if you can take folks down, please check in and offer a ride. Come on down to a meeting, and see what all the talk is about. **FUN MEETINGS!** Just a reminder that our meetings have moved from the *first* Wednesday to the second Wednesday of each month. They will still be held at the Choices Forum, but on the new night.

One other item to remember is that your dues for 1997 are now due and payable! Something new on the bottom of your dues form is a choice of which committee you will serve on. It is very important that you participate on one or more committees. A list of committees is provided on the inside cover of the Blurb. If you cannot contribute much of your time, simply join a committee that does

less. If you can't participate for health reasons, put "health" in that block, because if it is blank, the club will put something in there for you. Remember, it takes everyone of us to make it a GREAT club, so start giving back a little of the benefits you receive from the hobby.

The field day committee needs a tremendous amount of help! See Chris-N3IEI or Dick-W3RM for information on what is needed. Even if you can't make it to field day yourself, you might have some items that you could lend to help-out the club. Field day is right around the corner, so we need to get moving and support the field day committee.

I have a small request: When we hear a ham "QSLing", and using other such poor ham radio etiquette on our repeater, give them a helping hand. They really don't need a quick sending letter (QSL), and the beep is just as good as "over", so let's leave the bad habits on the 27 MHz band. We are all good hams so let's Elmer the new folks before it gets out of hand. But if they really want a QSL card, I'm sure we can send them one. 10-4 good buddy! (No I've never been a "C.B.er", I've always been a *real* ham!)

If anyone has anything for the club, you can reach me at the number on the inside cover of the *Blurb*, or on the 147.03, 147.315 or 224.96 repeaters, I often monitor all three.

Well that's it for this month; I can't wait to see you all at the meeting. ☺

## UPCOMING

Feb 5 Directors' Meeting at  
K2BN & WA2BTB's

Feb 6 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute

Feb 12 General Meeting Program:  
Antique Broadcast Receivers  
W3VVS  
~ ~ ~

Mar 5 Directors' Meeting at  
KB3AFH's

Mar 6 License Examinations at  
The Franklin Institute

Mar 12 General Meeting Program:  
Multiple Sclerosis Society  
~ ~ ~

Future Programs  
April The State of Amateur Radio—WT3P  
May Digital HDTV—W3NE  
*There will be no General Meetings  
in July and August.*

## HAMFESTS

Feb 15 HAVERTOWN, PA  
DelValHistoricRC Super Swap Meet  
Call Dave Abramson at 610-827-9757

Mar 1 ABSECON, NJ  
Shore Points ARC

Mar 23 TRENTON, NJ  
Delaware Valley RA

Apr 5-6 TIMONIUM, MD  
Baltimore ARC

Apr 20 NEW CASTLE, DE  
Penn-Del ARC

May 4 WRIGHTSTOWN, PA  
Warminster ARC

## V.E. TEST LOCATIONS

*Confirm all information, in advance, with the contact person. Licensed applicants must bring the original, and one photocopy of their license. All applicants, including children, must two means of positive ID. Also bring the original, and a copy, of any Certificate of Successful Completion needed to prove current status. The ARRL VEC's 1997 test fee is \$6.25; there is no charge for a Novice test.*

### • THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE

Monthly, 1st Thursday—Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q  
215- 879-0505 day, 215- 448-1139 24-hours

### • BELLMAR, NJ

William O'Donnell  
609-939-3032

### • BRISTOL

George LeNoir  
215-943-4886

### • LINWOOD, PA—(Commercial & Amateur Exams.)

Russ Stafford, AA3CH  
610-497-4590

### • NORRISTOWN

Raymond Patton  
610-279-1897

### • TELFORD

Joseph Burgess  
215-723-6697

### • UNIVERSITY OF PA

Jeff DePolo  
215- 898-8538 shack, 215-337-7383 home

### • WARMINSTER

Tom Michaud, WA3TQJ  
(215) 343-3494

### • WILMINGTON

Giselle Walls  
302-478-2757

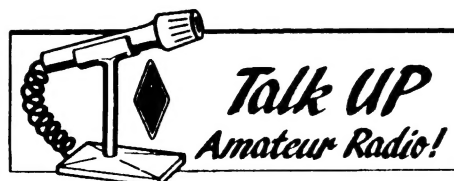
## PUBLIC SERVICE EVENTS

Charlie Weigand, AA3EP 610-323-1050  
Russ Stafford, russ@hdj.com

April 13 M.S. walk

April 20 M.S. walk

Sept 27-28 M.S. 150 city to shore bike tour



(space-to-Earth) allocation.

Calling their service "inherently global" the little LEO group said the industry needs "frequency allocations that can be used anywhere in the world," for nongeostationary, nonvoice mobile satellite service through the year 2002. "ITU-R studies indicate sharing is possible," the industry said.

"If the demand for Little LEO spectrum cannot be satisfied by allocations that could be used on a worldwide basis, one solution is to assign different frequencies for use in the various regions of the world from within the allocations to the mobile satellite service," the working paper's preamble said.

Little LEO firms CTA, E-Sat, Final Analysis, GE Starsys, and LEO One submitted the third revision of the lengthy paper—which drew criticism from the ARRL as well as from military and land-mobile interests and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration—at the January 7 session. The ARRL continued its objection to the inclusion of amateur bands and to the misapplication of Resolution 640. For now, Document IWG-2A/86 Rev. 3 is tabled, but it's expected to come up again at future meetings. IWG-2A meets on January 21 and February 4.

Overall, the little LEOs proposed the following bands for additional allocation to nongeostationary data-only mobile satellite service systems: 138-144, 146-148, 149.9-150.05, 150.05-156.7625, 380-387, 387-390, 390-399.9, 399.9-400.05, 400.15-401, 430-440, 440-450, 470-608 and 614-806 MHz. The paper notes there are proposals concerning 401-406 and 450-470 MHz and for feeder links at 1390-1400 and 1427-1432 MHz in other papers, and that "additional allocation proposals are under construction for the 174-230 MHz band."

For additional information on the little LEOs situation, read the editorial "It Seems to Us . . ." by ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, in February 1997 QST.

• **License-renewal reminders:** The ARRL has begun mailing license-renewal notices to members whose ham tickets are about to expire. The renewal package will include an FCC Form 610 and an FCC addressed envelope. Nearly 3100 notices were set to be mailed this past week to hams whose licenses will expire between February 17 and May 30, 1997. The last renewal notices sent by the FCC covered licenses expiring on February 16, 1997. Now that FCC has stopped sending renewal notices, the ARRL decided to resume this popular member service.

• **Nonagenarian Novice:** Derward Day, KC8FPJ, of Northville, Michigan, recently obtained his Novice ticket at the age of 91, demonstrating it's never too late to take up a new hobby. ☺

*The ARRL Letter*

QST ARLB004—January 25, 1997  
FCC finds missing call signs

Following up on "a few inquiries" into why certain call signs were not assigned when they were available, FCC personnel in Gettysburg report they found some 3355 call signs (mostly 2x2 and 2x3 format) that should have been made available for the vanity program but were not, for some reason. An FCC spokesman in Gettysburg reports a search of all vanity applications (including those that required special handling) comparing requested call sign(s) against the 3355 turned up four to be resolved. The other call signs now have been made available for future vanity grants.

Earlier this month, callers to the FCC's



tice—which has become more prevalent and obvious during the issuance of Gate 2 vanity call signs in November—has raised the hackles of some hams. A California ham wrote the ARRL expressing his concern that the multiple applications were “clearly in violation of the spirit” of the vanity call sign program, and a New York ham asserted that “club calls should be for real clubs, not imaginary ones.” Both hams decried the issuance of 23 club station call signs issued to members of one family in California.

The FCC spokesman said, however, that there’s nothing in the current regulations to prevent any club from holding several different call signs, nor is there anything to prevent the trustee of those licenses from taking advantage of the vanity call sign program—provided the trustee is willing to put up the \$30 per application.

#### LITTLE LEOs NARROW 2-METER FOCUS TO 146-148 MHZ

In their effort to secure spectrum space that includes the 2-meter and 70-cm ham bands, the Little LEOs have narrowed their focus on 2 meters to the 146 to 148-MHz segment. The industry also appears to be attempting to reposition itself as a potential emergency communication adjunct to ham radio.

The little LEOs will use low-Earth-orbiting satellites to provide position-location and two-way data-messaging services to potential customers around the world. Customers would use small, inexpensive transceivers to communicate with satellites. According to the FCC, potential uses of this service include emergency location in remote areas, environmental data collection, vehicle tracking, and time-sensitive business and personal data communication.

For Region 1, a draft little LEO frequen-

cy allocation table has proposed adding a primary mobile-satellite allocation of 146 to 148 MHz to the existing allocations for fixed and mobile (except aeronautical mobile [R] services). The table was contained in a working paper—Document IWG-2A/86 Rev. 3, entitled “New Allocations for the Mobile-Satellite Services Operating Below 1 GHz”—submitted by representatives of the Little LEOs industry to Informal Working Group-2A (IWG-2A) January 7.

The 146 to 148-MHz segment is not a ham band in Region 1, but in Regions 2 and 3, a footnote would be added to state: “Additional allocation: the bands 146-148 and 430-440 MHz are also allocated to the mobile-satellite service, limited to non-geostationary satellite systems, for use only during emergency communication situations as a complement to the amateur service in accordance with Resolution No. 640.”

The little LEO proposal also calls for a new primary allocation for the mobile-satellite (space-to-Earth) service for 430-440 MHz in Regions 2 and 3 (ham radio is primary in Region 1), and offers this rationale. “The allocation for the mobile-satellite service within the bands allocated to the amateur service is intended to be a complement to that latter service in situations involving emergency communications as provided for the [sic] Resolution No. 640.”

As currently drawn, Resolution 640 covers only the 144 to 146-MHz segment of 2 meters and does not apply at all to 70 cm.

In the 440 to 450-MHz band, where the Amateur Service is not listed in the international table of frequency allocations except by footnote (ham radio is secondary in Australia, the US, Jamaica, the Philippines, and Canada), the little LEOs proposed a new worldwide primary mobile-satellite

## MINUTES

### JANUARY GENERAL MEETING

Carol Sebzda, N3PVO, Secretary



The 563rd General Meeting was called to order at 7:41 p.m. by past president (WU3I) Steve, who turned the meeting over to our new president (AA3CH) Russ, who thanked Steve for his hard work as our past president, and welcomed all attendees.

A motion was made to waive the reading of the minutes. The following commitments reported.

**FIELD DAY:** (AA3CH) Russ reported a 75m committee has been formed. (WU3I) Steve has equipment to lend for other bands if needed. Let the committee know if you would like to sponsor a band.

**MEMBERSHIP:** (N3XKW) Stephanie reported we have one new member this month. Please welcome N3XUY Ronald Cella.

**NET CONTROL:** (AA3CH) Russ reported a need for a 75m Sunday morning net control operator to replace himself.

**PROGRAM:** (W3GQD) Bill reported five meetings lined up for this year, including the auction. See the schedule elsewhere in this issue. Please contact Bill if you have an idea for a meeting.

**REPEATER:** (W3BBB) Jim reported “the repeater’s not working right, but we’ll fix it.”

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** (AA3EP) Char-

lie reported that he is waiting for confirmation on dates for the upcoming schedule of events.

**SUNSHINE:** (WU3I) Steve reported six cards sent out to various members since the beginning of the year. If you know a member who is ill please contact Steve.

**VE TESTING:** (ND3Q) Dusty reported only a 35% passing rate for the January session. Remember, testing will still be held on the 1st non-holiday Thursday of the month.

**W3AA:** (WU3I) Steve reported that March will be the 45th anniversary of the station at The Franklin Institute, and we’ll run a special events station for that month. One noted frequency of operation for the event is 14.230 for SSTV. The new QSL cards are in, and will be in place at the station. Most importantly, certificates of appreciation were awarded to all of the station’s volunteers for their hard work. Good job!

**WELCOMING:** (N3PDO) Mike reported 70+ people attending the meeting.

The meeting was closed at 8:00 p.m., and the floor was turned over to (AA3CH) Russ for the first annual Phil-Mont auction.

A reminder: the General Meeting will be held on the 2nd non-holiday Wednesday of each month. See you at the next meeting. ☺

**Come to a Phil-Mont meeting,  
and see what all the talk is about!**

## MINUTES

## JANUARY DIRECTORS' MEETING

Carol Sebзда, N3PVO, Secretary

The mid-month meeting was opened at 8:10 p.m. by (AA3CH) Russ at the home of Steve and Joann Hoch. The following committees reported.

**TREASURER:** (K2BN) Mike reported this month the club took in about \$2000. The auction took in a little over \$300, of which \$20 will go into the W3AA fund. There was a discussion if the club should apply for 501(c)(3) status. (WU3I) Steve made a motion that (K2BN) Mike should look into this. (W3BBB) Jim seconded the motion.

**MEMBERSHIP:** (AA3CH) Russ reported two applicants for membership. They were (K3HD) Robert Cloud, extra class, and (N3VLC) Larry Pollack. A motion to

accept the applicants for membership was made by (W3RM) Dick, and seconded by (WU3I) Steve. Both applicants were approved for membership.

Next, Russ reported there would be two new blocks added to the membership applications: one for students, and one for family members.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was a discussion on the possibility of selling more of the 3½" disks since they were such a hit at the auction. It was decided we would look into this further.

The meeting was closed at 9:19 p.m. Many thanks to Steve and Joann for hosting the first mid-month meeting of 1997. ☺

## General Meeting Program 2nd Wednesday

### Antique Broadcast Receivers

Paul Bohlander, W3VVS

The 35mm color slide program will include early amateur loose-coupler tuners dating from 1914, crystal sets and battery powered receivers of the 1920s, AC receivers of the 1930s, to small table-model receivers of the 1940s.

al Transcription Service (ITS).

Among other things, ITS can research amateur call signs to determine when they were first issued and to whom. The cost of this service varies depending on the volume and research time involved. Research time is \$15 per hour, billed in quarter-hour increments. Requests can take up to one business week. Additional charges apply for expedited service.

ITS is located in the FCC's Gettysburg Office. Write ITS Inc, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Suite 24, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245; tel 717-337-1433; fax 717-337-3409.—Tom Hogerty, KC1J

### THE ARRL LETTER TO BECOME ELECTRONIC-ONLY PUBLICATION

This marks the final printed edition of The ARRL Letter, which began publication to member subscribers in October 1982. Last January, we switched distribution of The ARRL Letter by mail from semimonthly to monthly and instituted electronic distribution of The ARRL Letter plus weekly electronic updates via the Internet, the World Wide Web and other on-line outlets, including the Netcom server. This distribution network has proven to be fast, efficient and effective. It's a terrific way to keep up with what's going on in the ham radio world every week, and it's been very popular with subscribers, so eliminating the printed version is a logical next step. But there's another, more practical aspect to our decision to end the printed, mailed version. Even on its current monthly schedule, The ARRL Letter loses about \$12,000 per year, a loss which we can no longer justify in an era of belt-tightening. ARRL news—via bulletins and weekly electronic editions of The ARRL Letter—is widely available on

the Internet and packet radio. In addition, modern production methods allow us to make news in QST much more timely for those who do not use the electronic information channels.

### —>How to Get The ARRL Letter<—

For members and nonmembers alike, The ARRL Letter is available free-of-charge from these sources:

- The ARRLWeb page (<http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter/>). This version of The ARRL Letter includes any photographs.
- The HIRAM BBS: 860-594-0306.
- The ARRL Technical Information Server (Info Server): Send an e-mail message to [info@arrl.org](mailto:info@arrl.org). The subject line should be blank. In the message body, type "send ltr<mmdd>.txt", where mm represents two digits for the month and dd represents two digits for the day (The ARRL Letter is published every Friday). For example, to request The ARRL Letter file for Friday, January 3, 1997, you'd type "send ltr0103.txt". Then, on a separate line, type "quit".
- CompuServe and America Online subscribers, as a downloadable text file in the services' ham radio libraries
- The Netcom server, run by the Boston Amateur Radio Club and Mike Ardai, N1IST: Send e-mail to: [listserv@netcom.com](mailto:listserv@netcom.com) (no subject needed). The body of the message should say "subscribe letter-list".

### MULTIPLE CLUB STATION CALL SIGNS ALL LEGAL

The assignment of multiple club station call signs to the same clubs—some of which may exist only on paper—is perfectly legal according to a staff member in the FCC's Private Wireless Division. However, the prac-

tions:

Q - Is FCC still handling renewals and other amateur license modifications? If yes, what form(s) are accepted by FCC and is there a charge (if so, how much)?

A - The FCC is still handling amateur license modifications—the only action FCC took in October '96 was to cease sending out Forms 610R notifications. Currently, the FCC will only accept the Forms 610R that they (FCC) send out (they won't accept the W5YI group Form 610R—those must be returned only to W5YI) and they (FCC) will accept the standard Form 610. Applications to be processed by the FCC must be mailed to: FCC, 1270 Fairfield Rd, Gettysburg PA 17325-7245. There is no charge for this FCC service.

Q - Can I simply send the standard Form 610 (supplied by the W5YI Group) to the FCC by mail at no charge?

A - Yes, a standard Form 610 can be mailed to the FCC or certain participating VECs.

Q - The ARRL has a VEC, why isn't ARRL offering a comparable application processing service?

A - Actually, the ARRL (ARRL/VEC) is offering such a service (we started doing so in August 1996)—but it's only available to ARRL Members. There is no charge for this membership service. Members must send an original, signed, standard Form 610 (not 610R) with a copy of their amateur license (or a note indicating the license was lost) to: ARRL/VEC, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.

Q - What's the difference in processing time between VEC electronically-filed applications vs those mailed to the FCC?

A - FCC processing time can be 10 days to three weeks, not accounting for mailing times. VEC received and processed appli-

cations usually result in overnight/next day updates in FCC on-line data, with an updated hardcopy license by mail in 7 to 10 days.

Q - What about other FCC forms (610A, 610B and 610V)?

A - VECs cannot presently process any of these forms. Form 610V must be mailed with the \$30 fee to the FCC Bank Contractor in Pittsburgh PA, or applications can be made on line using the FCC web page on line form (but payment must still be mailed to the bank contractor). Forms 610A and 610B must still be mailed to the FCC's Gettysburg mailing address. FCC will not accept applications by Fax. FCC intends in the future to implement an on-line web page for FCC forms submissions.

Q - Can ARRL/VEC VE teams send ARRL member Form 610 applications to the ARRL/VEC with their completed test session packages?

A - Yes, VE teams can certainly do so. VE teams should be sure to earmark such applications by clipping them together (perhaps in a separate envelope) and indicating that these are "applications with modifications only to be forwarded to the FCC for ARRL members."

Feel free to direct any questions you may have to me at the ARRL/VEC.

Bart J. Jahnke, W9JJ Manager ARRL/VEC  
bjahnke@arrl.org

### Identifying former call sign holders

Some vanity call sign holders have become interested in the genealogy of their new call signs, and want to know who the former holders were. While we don't have the resources to track down this information at HQ, those interested might try the FCC's official duplicating contractor, International

## 141<sup>ST</sup> MONTHLY VE SESSION STATISTICS JANUARY

11 candidates took 26 elements  
1 new amateur plus 4 upgrades

VE team members:

Dusty Rhoads, ND3Q, Chairman  
Arnie Cooper, AA3HO; Thom Scott, KA4LIF;  
Jim McCloskey, KE3OP; Jeff Kerber, KE3UV

AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS HELD ON THE FIRST  
NON-HOLIDAY THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH

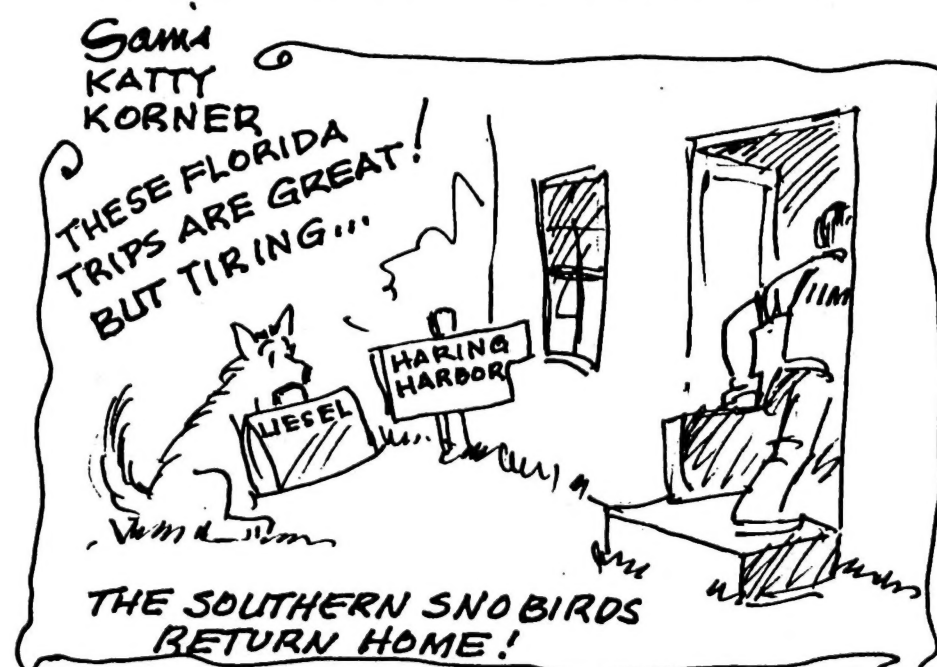
Registration begins at 6:00 PM

Doors close at 6:30 PM sharp

THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE  
SCIENCE MUSEUM

For Information Call ND3Q at  
(215) 448-1139 or 879-0505

Accessible by the handicapped.





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REPORT

**A**fter 5 plus years of volunteering it was mentioned to me that some recognition of our operators was due. At the January General Meeting Certificates of Appreciation were handed out to all operators present. If you were not at the meeting, please check the folder in the Sign-In book at the station for your certificate.

The dates for the camp-ins in February are 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22 and 28. If you can help out please contact Leigh Anne at 448-1133.

Many thanks to Lenny KD2CR for the donation of an external CD Player now installed on the SSTV Position. This gives us the additional method of importing images from Photo CD format as well as commercially published image CDs. The CD drive is Drive E. There was also 8 meg more RAM added to the SSTV raising it to 16 meg., which will allow the system to function more efficiently.

We are still working with Bob at HRO for the 6 Meter addition to the station. Kenwood has us on hold until April for the next fiscal period.

If you are interested in helping-out at the station contact me please; we can use some help. Rollie is alone on Mondays and Al is alone on Tuesdays. On Wednesday we have good coverage with Perry, Lenny, and Jim. Thursday has intermittent coverage with Dean and Jacob, and Fridays with Ric and Henry. Saturday has varied coverage with Charlye, Mike, Mike, Paul, Bob and Jamie. Sunday has Marc and Len in the morning, and Pat and Merrill in the afternoon. There are times when some additional help is desired, and some of our volunteers take trips and have health problems that keep them from making it in on schedule.

Len KD2CR just recovered from a stroke, and came back to active status after 3 months off. Len WB3JUA had some health problems at home and had to take off for a while. If you can't make your schedule please contact me or another volunteer with as much notice as possible to keep the station manned if possible. I can be reached at 215-535-8061, shoch@comcat.com, or wu3i@w3aa.#sepa.pa.usa.noam.

Remember It's your station, STOP IN AND HAVE FUN WITH US SOMETIME!

—Stephen C Hoch, WU3I

Internet: <http://www.fi.edu/tfi/exhibits/w3aa.html>

## GOODIES

FOR SALE - Club project:

3 1/2", 1.4 mb computer diskettes. These are top grade surplus disks to be formatted and re-labeled.

\$10 per hundred, (minimum quantity) packed in plastic.

\$8 per hundred in lots of 500 or more. Packaged 500 per carton. (\$40)

Buy a 500 qty. carton and split with your friends. Larger quantities - inquire for handling details. This is a PMRC endeavor for the benefit of club projects with several purposes: ie. keep the W3AA volunteer radio station at The Franklin Institute in top condition; maintain the network of club repeater stations; mailing and Blurb publishing costs, etc..

See or call coordinator: Gene, N3XKE (215-482-2456) who has volunteered to arrange ordering and local pickup.

Payment is to the Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club.

### MID-MONTH MEETING SCHEDULE

*Please note that all Directors' Meetings have been changed to the first non-holiday Wednesday.*

February 5 ----- WA2BTB & K2BN  
March 5 ----- KB3AFH  
April 2 ----- W3GQD  
May 7 ----- N3AXJ  
June 4 ----- AA3EP  
July 2 ----- AA3CH & N3WCO  
August 6 ----- W3BBB  
September 3 --- N3PVO @ CHI Southampton  
October 1 ----- WB3KOH & WB3KOJ  
November 5 --- N3KQH & NU3Y  
December 3 --- N3FVI

## FCC License Renewals

### Questions and Answers

Some amateurs have inquired with ARRL HQ as to what has happened regarding FCC License Expiration Notices, and how renewals are now being handled. Follows is some reference information:

In July 1996 FCC issued a Public Notice indicating that VECs could begin to accept, process and submit electronically to the FCC Forms 610 for persons seeking license modifications (including renewals, and address, call and name changes). Without special FCC arrangements, only the standard Form 610 can be accepted by VECs. [VECs must receive an originally signed application form (pictures or fax forms cannot be accepted by VECs).]

In October 1996 FCC ceased sending out its Form 610-R license expiration notices.

At about the same time last October, the W5YI Group began a license expiration service notifying amateurs that their licenses were to expire (including a special version of Form 610R—which FCC permitted the W5YI Group to use), and offered to them a service of processing their amateur license renewal and forwarding it to the FCC electronically—all for a \$6 processing fee. The W5YI Group indicates that \$1 from every fee will be donated to a VEC Conference fund to help offset VEC Conference expenses. The W5YI Group also enclosed a standard Form 610 which must be completed when anything more than a simple renewal (eg, address, name or call change) was intended to be processed by them.

This turn of events has left some amateurs confused. Follows are the answers we have offered in reply to the following ques-





# In Sincere Sympathy

*A Phil-Mont members loss...  
is a Phil-Mont Family loss*

Lydia Vold, wife of Carl, W3SGR

Lydia passed away Dec 23rd, 1996, 5:30 p.m. after a very long illness. A memorial service was held Jan. 9th 1997, 10 a.m. at Trinity Church, Narberth, Pa. where she was an active supporter.

Lydia was an extremely well-read person, and office manager for Dr. Carl in her active years. She leaves the family of Carl and son Robert, with grandchildren Lynn and 'Bobby' WA3LLK.

We remember Lydia with many happy days at their cottage in Beach Haven, NJ., and her extensive collection of books and sea shells.

W3PXY and family

## PACKET PACKET PACKET!

As you may or may not know, the packet system has seen a lot of BBSs go off the air this year. You will want to make sure that the BBS you call home is still there, because, as of this writing, some of the great BBSs are off the air—like KE3CZ, and KA3FMO just to name a few. You should pick a new home BBS, and you should also let Donald (WB3KOJ) know of your new home, so he can update our club records as well as the PHIL-MONT list server. Here are suggestions of some good BBSs in the area.

Center City  
W3AA—144.99

North (Bucks County)  
K3HD—145.03

West (Montgomery Co.)  
N3ACL—145.01

South (Delaware County)  
AA3CH—144.99

East (Southern New Jersey)  
W3PS—145.05

Far West (Chester Co.)  
KE3RL—145.01

Far South (Newcastle County)  
N3FLB—145.05

Russ, AA3CH



1997

## FEBRUARY

1997

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>NEW MEETING SCHEDULE</b> Directors' meetings now held on the FIRST non-holiday Wednesday. General meetings now held on the SECOND non-holiday Wednesday.					1
<b>2</b> 2M NCS N3OWM 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3PWG  <i>Ground Hog Day</i>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>5</b> DIRECTORS' MEETING at K2BN & WA2BTB's	<b>6</b> LICENSE EXAMS at The Franklin Institute Registration begins at 6:00 Doors close at 6:30 p.m. <i>sharp!</i>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 2M NCS W3STW 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS W3STW	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM WA3NSP  <i>Thomas Edison 1847</i>	<b>12</b> GENERAL MEETING at The Franklin Institute Refreshments at 7:00 p.m. Meeting starts at 7:30. <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  <i>DelValHistoricRC Super Swap Meet HAVERTOWN, PA</i>
<b>16</b> 2M NCS WB3KOJ 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS NEEDED	<b>17</b>  <i>President's Day</i>	<b>18</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM N3FVI	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> ○  <i>George Washington 1732</i>
<b>23</b> 2M NCS KB3IV 10M NCS W3HFY 75M NCS KB3IV	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> CODE PRACTICE NET at 8 PM W3RM	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>A Ham's Prayer:</b> Dear Lord, fill my mouth with meaningful stuff, and nudge me when I have said enough.